



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**BOARD OF GOVERNORS SUPPORT PROPOSITIONS 57 AND 58  
Community Colleges Are Key to State's Economic Recovery Efforts**

SACRAMENTO – This morning Chancellor Mark Drummond transmitted a letter to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger expressing support from the California Community Colleges Board of Governors for Propositions 57 and 58. The Board of Governors unanimously adopted resolutions to support the propositions during a special meeting convened last week. Board President Catherine Unger stated: “The passage of both propositions are vital to sustain the significant role that community colleges play in assisting the state during this time of economic recovery.”

However, Unger cautioned: “If these propositions fail, community colleges will likely experience budget reductions severe enough to jeopardize the system’s ability to accomplish its mission. If this happens, the economic health of the state would be in jeopardy for many years to come.” Community colleges are supported through the state’s general fund that has experienced significant shortfalls between revenues and expenditures. Because of the ongoing deficit, community colleges have seen significant reductions in their general fund allocations that have forced colleges to reduce course offerings, lay off instructors, and reduce or eliminate services to students.

In previous actions, the Board of Governors approved support positions for Proposition 55 (Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act) at their March

2003 meeting and Proposition 56 (Budget Accountability Act) in November 2003. If approved by the voters, Proposition 55 would provide \$12.3 billion to repair, upgrade and build schools in California with the community colleges eligible to receive up to \$920 million. Passage of Proposition 56 would allow the state budget to pass on a legislative vote of 55 percent instead of the current two-thirds and would reform the budget process with strict legislative accountability measures enacted.

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the world with over 2.8 million students enrolled in 72 districts and 108 campuses during academic year 2002-2003.

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